

# The Nutcracker



## Virginia Regional Ballet

### Parent & Dancer Information 2021

Dancer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Costume Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Due date Monday, November 15th

# THE NUTCRACKER: A PARENT'S GUIDE



## THE PERFORMANCES

Virginia Regional Ballet will be performing The Nutcracker in Newport News at the Ferguson Center for the Arts on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM and Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM.

VRB will be performing an abbreviated version of The Nutcracker for schools at the Ferguson Center for the Arts on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, and Friday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. A letter appropriate for requesting an excused absence from school is included in this guide. All of Act I and selections from Act II will be danced. Cherubs and Mother Gigogne do not perform during the school shows.

VRB has also booked the Kimball Theater for educational performances Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> with a rehearsal on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be a slightly different show than the one at the Ferguson. Details to follow.

## THE REHEARSALS

Dancers must attend all rehearsals and performances. Rehearsals will be scheduled on Friday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays.

During the week of Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> rehearsals will be held in the afternoons and evenings.

Technical & Dress Rehearsal for Act 1 and School Shows will be held at The Ferguson Center on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM – 10:30 PM. Performers will be done by 10:00 PM, volunteers done at 10:30. Please remember that these times are subject to change.

Technical Rehearsal for Mother Gigogne will be on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 PM. Mother Gigogne children will not be in costume during tech rehearsal, just leotard, tights, and ballet slippers.

Technical & Dress Rehearsal for Act 2 will be Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM (*no Mother G*). Full Dress Rehearsal for Act 1 & Act 2 with the orchestra will be on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM -11:00 PM. Dress rehearsals will be run in show order. Please remember that these times are subject to change.

Please check the bulletin board and website ([The Nutcracker 2021 – Virginia Regional Ballet \(dancevrb.com\)](http://The Nutcracker 2021 – Virginia Regional Ballet (dancevrb.com))) often for specific rehearsal times and dates. VRB frequently sends emails with information about Nutcracker rehearsals. Please make sure VRB has a working email address so that you receive these updates. Any dancer that misses 3 or more rehearsals will be replaced in the production. Please notify VRB as soon as possible if your dancer will miss or be late to any rehearsal.

Preferred method of contact/notification – E-mail to [Dance@danceVRB.com](mailto:Dance@danceVRB.com) – Subject should include dancer's name.

## ILLNESS

Dancers will be in close contact with one another during Nutcracker rehearsals. Please remind your dancer that proper and frequent hand washing is the best way to avoid contracting illnesses such as colds, flu, and other respiratory illnesses.

Please once again review the Medical Reference provided at the picnic/ cast reveal event, especially pages 2 – 3 for guidelines when to keep your child at home.

Please notify VRB via e-mail (see prior page) if your child is ill and will miss rehearsal, or if they have been in close contact with someone who has contracted COVID.

## VOLUNTEERS

Parent volunteers are an important part of The Nutcracker production. A volunteer information form was included in the packet with your Nutcracker Contract, or can be downloaded from the DanceVRB.com website if you need a form. All families must volunteer for three jobs, all help is appreciated. The contact information you provided on the Nutcracker Contract is provided to the Parent Volunteer Coordinator. Be prepared to sign-up for your preferred jobs and time slots when you receive the e-mail the *Signup Genius* link in mid-October. The form previously provided is just to share information, it is not a replacement for the *Signup Genius*. Volunteers should be vaccinated or wear a mask while working.

## COSTUMES, MAKE-UP, AND ACCESSORIES

VRB provides all costumes. Dancers/Parents are asked to provide shoes, tights, skin-colored leotards(recommended), and please read the details for each part for additional accessories required. Dancers are charged a costume fee of \$45 for the first costume (per dancer) and \$25 for each additional costume, ***cash or check payable to Virginia Regional Ballet***. Costume fees are due by Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. A complete list of required accessories follows.

## SUPPLIES

- Hairnets, bobby pins, ponytail holders, hairspray
- White trunks or leotard (must be worn under all costumes)
- Pink tights. Note: All dancers must purchase the brand of performance tights selected by the Artistic Director. Mr. Bob will have the specific brand chosen in stock at Chamber Dance Attire.
- A pair of socks to cover dance shoes while not on stage
- Label all belongings with name on inside of all shoes, trunks, and tights. *Please do not put your child's name on the bottom of his/her shoes.*
- A large bag to hold all belongings
- Makeup
  - Dancers should provide their own makeup. Int/Adv dancers should purchase two pairs of false eyelashes – one to wear and one as a spare.
  - A makeup guide for Mother Gigogne children will be provided.

- Jewelry
  - Int/Adv dancers – rhinestone stud earrings only.
  - Ballet 1 through 2A dancers – no earrings.
  - No other jewelry should be brought to the theatre.
  - No eyeglasses or hair scrunchies worn on stage.
  - No fingernail polish.
- Suggested Extras
  - A small blanket
  - Deck of cards or other small games or books
  - Comfy clothes for cover-up

## SPECIFIC COSTUME REQUIREMENTS

- **Big Party Children**
  - Girls: pink tights, pink or white trunks/leotard, clean pink pointe/flat shoes (TBD), stage make-up, hair in bun with ponytail ringlets (hairpiece - make sure they are tight)
  - Boys: black socks, black no-lace jazz shoes, hair in a flat bun
- **Little Party Children**
  - Girls: pink tights, pink or white trunks/leotard, clean pink *leather* ballet slippers, stage make-up, hair in bun with ponytail ringlets (hairpiece - make sure they are tight)
  - Boys: white tights (unless otherwise specified by director), black no-lace jazz shoes, hair in a flat bun
- **Party Parents**
  - Women: pink tights, black character shoes, hair and jewelry must be approved by Ms. Heidi, stage make-up
  - Men: black socks, black jazz shoes, stage make-up, all other accessories must be approved by Ms. Heidi.
- **Harlequin:** white tights, white trunks, black leather ballet shoes, flat bun, false eyelashes, stage make-up to character (and red sparkle circle cheeks, *stickers provided*)
- **Columbine:** pink tights, pink trunks, dulled Pointe shoes, ringlets under the bun, false eyelashes, stage make-up to character (and red sparkle circle cheeks, *stickers provided*)
- **Masque Dancers** Girls: pink tights, pink trunks, dulled Pointe shoes, and hair in a bun
- **Mice:** gray ballet slippers. VRB has some gray ballet slippers. If a pair is not available in your dancer's size, you will be asked to provide the following: pink canvas ~ without holes ~ ballet slippers; turn these in to the "Mouse Mom" by Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, if needed. They will be painted gray. Old canvas shoes color the best. Dancer's name needs to be written inside each slipper with permanent marker. Please stuff shoes with crumpled newspaper. NOTE: Gray tights/socks are provided by VRB. Hair in French braid.
- **Soldiers:** pink tights, white trunks, black leather ballet shoes or black no-lace jazz shoes, hair in a flat bun, and stage make-up.
- **Horse Soldiers:** black tights, black leotard, black no-lace jazz shoes, hair in a flat bun, and stage make-up
- **Nutcracker:** white tights, black ballet slippers
- **Reindeer:** clean, pink pointe/ballet shoes, pink or flesh tights, white or flesh colored leotard, reindeer make-up, and hair in a flat bun

- **Cherubs:** pink tights, pink ballet slippers, hair in a flat bun with ringlets added, stage make-up
- **Pages:** black tights, black leather ballet slippers, black leotard, hair in a bun, stage make-up
- **Spanish, Tirolese, Mirlitons, Candy Canes, and Presenters:** pink tights, dulled pink pointe shoes, hair in a bun, stage make-up, rhinestone stud earrings, trunks to match costume.
- **Arabian:** pink tights, hair in a bun, stage make-up, rhinestone stud earrings, other details TBA
- **Chinese:** black leather ballet slippers with white elastic, white dress socks
- **Russian:** pink tights, pink trunks, black character shoes, hair in a bun, stage make-up
- **Mother Gigogne Children**
  - **girls:** pink tights, white or pink leotard (short or no sleeves), clean, pink *leather* ballet slippers with elastic, drawstrings tucked inside shoes, hair in a flat bun with ringlets added (details at parent meeting), hair barrettes, make-up to character
  - **boys:** white tights, black leather ballet slippers with white elastic, make-up to character
- **Waltz of the Flowers:** pink trunks

Everyone: *Please, NO BANGS or whispies, no jewelry, fingernail polish, tattoos, eyeglasses, runs in tights. NO Glitter! Please make sure all shoes are clean looking for every performance!*

\* Curls for **Big & Little Party Girls, Cherubs** and **Mother Gigogne Girls** will be discussed during parent meeting. Curls need to be purchased. Please see lead Mother Gigogne mom for questions.

## LOST & FOUND

Dancers are assigned to one of several dressing rooms at the theatre. The rooms are crowded. Each dancer is responsible for her/his belongings. To avoid misplacing items, each dancer should keep her/his gear inside her/his bag when it is not in use. Make sure all items are labeled, including on the inside of each shoe. *It is a good idea to ask your dancer to show you BOTH shoes in each pair, prior to leaving the theatre following each rehearsal and performance.*

## MEALS & FOOD

VRB will be ordering box lunches for dancers and volunteers between the Saturday performances. An order form will be provided in October. The meal will be a sandwich (meat or veggie) and will include fruit, a cookie, and water. Orders are due by Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For all other meals, parents should pack food such as sandwiches, pretzels, crackers, and dry cereal. Please do not send greasy or sticky foods. Beverages are limited to water only.

**Food is not permitted in the theatre or in the dressing room areas.** Dancers may eat in common areas. Food and water must be kept away from *all* costumes. No food or drink (*even water*) while in costume! Costumes damaged by dancer's negligence will be the responsibility of the parents to clean or replace.

## NUTCRACKER RULES & REGULATIONS

Theatre rehearsals are closed to the public. At Ferguson Center for the Arts, only performers, crew, and backstage volunteers with badges are allowed backstage. Parents should check in their dancer at the stage door entrance and a volunteer will escort your dancer to their assigned backstage mom. Dancers are not permitted to leave the building until dismissal. Parents should sign-out and meet their dancer in the common area at the backstage entrance. To get text updates regarding release times during rehearsals at the Ferguson Center text @d7d83k to 81010 or download the Remind app and search for Nutcracker 2021 using the code @d7d83k.

## PRE-PERFORMANCE PREPARATIONS

Parents should block out from December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 19<sup>th</sup> on their calendars. Do not plan on getting much else accomplished during these weeks other than your normal activities and Nutcracker. What can you do to prepare in advance?

- Stock up on healthy snacks, sandwich supplies, and bottled spring water.
- Shop for dance shoes and supplies early.
- Arrange a car pool with other families with dancers in the same level.
- Volunteering is mandatory. You will feel more a part of the production, and we need parent volunteers to make it happen!

## NUTCRACKER SHIRTS

VRB will offer long-sleeved Nutcracker t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale. The names of the dancers will be listed on the back of the shirts. Order forms are included in The Nutcracker Parent/Dancer Packet. Shirts will arrive before the Williamsburg Christmas Parade, December 5<sup>th</sup>, line up approximately 3 PM. Shirt order forms are due by November 8<sup>th</sup>

## PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

A professional photographer will take photographs. Individual and group portraits will be taken Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Williamsburg Studio, starting no later than 9 AM. More Photo Day schedule details to come. Action shots will be taken during Dress Rehearsal.

Photography and videography is prohibited during the performance. The Nutcracker will be recorded. A DVD order form is included in this packet.

# SHOW WEEK SCHEDULE SUMMARY

KIMBALL THEATER

REHEARSAL – MONDAY DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> – TIMES TBD

SPECIAL SCHOOL SHOW – TUESDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> – TIMES TBD

All at The Ferguson Center for the Arts. *Times are subject to change.*

<u>Wed., Dec. 15<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Thurs., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup></u> <u>Fri., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Fri., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup></u>
Tech & Dress Rehearsal for Act 1 & School Shows 5:00pm-10:30pm Performers done by 10:00pm	School Show Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00am 9:30am dancers arrive  School Shows Dec 17 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00am 9:30am dancers arrive	Tech Rehearsal for Act 2 1:00pm-4:00pm  Mother Gigone 5:00-6:00pm  Dress Rehearsal for Act 1 & 2 with Orchestra 7:00-11:00pm
<u>Sat., Dec. 18th</u>		Call time 2-hrs before showtime.
Public Shows at 1:00 PM & 5:00 PM		Mother Gigogne call time 1-hr before
<u>Sun., Dec. 19<sup>th</sup></u>		
Public Show 2:00pm		

Dancers, excluding Mother Gigogne children, are to stay at the theater between shows on Saturday, Dec. 18th.

Dancers may leave their things in the dressing room overnight between rehearsal and performances as has been allowed in past years.

CAST PARTY!

The cast party is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Dec. 20th, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at Sal's.

NOTES: